



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1786

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Mitzvah Kitchen operates the only community-run, industrial kosher kitchen in greater Miami Dade area. We engage volunteers and adults with disabilities to prepare and distribute meals to individuals and families (Jewish and non-Jewish) experiencing food insecurity and those with kosher restrictions. Through the kitchen, adults with special needs will receive training and certifications that will assist them with entering the workforce. Since COVID, there has been a growing demand for kosher food in Miami, not only because it reflects adherence to religious dietary laws and tradition but also due to its perceived safety and the increasing sense of security for Jewish families in the state.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	550,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	550,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	550,000	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	9%
Other	470,500	42%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,120,500	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	500,000	1624A	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.
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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Director salary plus benefits dedicated to the project	105,453
Other Salary and Benefits	Other administrative salaries plus benefits dedicated to the project	39,718
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Accountants, Audit	25,724
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Program Director & Program Manager plus Benefits	151,442
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mortgage, Utilities, Security, landscaping, Office, program and kitchen, Supplies and Food.	124,663
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Chef, Kitchen Assistant, Catering, Kosher certification, Trainings	103,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		550,000

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The Mitzvah Kitchen program will impart practical culinary skills for individuals with special needs while also promoting personal growth, community engagement, long-term independence, training and certifications to enter the workforce, and fostering inclusivity within the local business community and through partnerships with organizations meeting the needs of our local food insecurity.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?



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The Mitzvah Kitchen provides the only community-run, industrial kosher kitchen in Miami Dade area that engages individuals with special needs and volunteers from various businesses who prepare and distribute restaurant-quality meals to individuals and families (Jewish and non-Jewish) experiencing food insecurity as it relates to kosher restrictions.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The Mitzvah Kitchen provides citizens the opportunity to gain culinary experience through the only community-run, industrial kosher kitchen in Miami Dade area. Individuals with special needs will receive culinary certificates that will benefit them in job placement. Individuals and families (Jewish and non-Jewish) experiencing food insecurity as it relates to kosher restrictions will be provided meals prepared to meet their needs.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Elderly persons; persons with developmental and physical disabilities; persons with poor mental and physical health; persons who are economically disadvantaged, to include homeless, jobless; persons who are at-risk youth; persons who are high school and college/secondary level students.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The program delivers valuable instruction for individuals with special needs, aimed at enhancing self-confidence, self-esteem, assisting with life-skills, and fostering financial independent by better preparing the individual to attain employment that fosters their economic self-sufficiency while serving those experiencing food insecurities. The program helps to establish stability and promotes improved mental health, enhancing culinary skills while encouraging cultural enrichment and promoting tolerance, inclusion, and diversity within the community for individuals with special needs. Outcomes will be assessed through data reports, behavioral observation by staff, feedback from participants, and before and after comparisons.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

All funds must be paid back to administering agency.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name



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b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.